JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

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So. Baptists escape Lebanon firestorm

LARNACA, Cyprus (BP) —
After being trapped for more than
a week in Beirut as IsraeliHezbollah fighting raged, 19 tired
and relieved Southern Baptist volunteers arrived in Cyprus from
Lebanon early July 21 aboard the
Navy transport USS Nashville.
The volunteers from two

churches in Georgia and Texas were transported by bus with hundreds of other U.S. evacuees from the Cypriot port of Larnaca to Nicosia, where U.S. embassy officials have set up a receiving area equipped with cots, food, and beverages in a city convention center.

From there, the volunteers were expected to board one of the charter flights U.S. officials have arranged to take Americans exiting Lebanon home to the United States.

The two volunteer groups include 10 members from First Church of Forney, Texas, and nine from Eagle's Landing First Church in Henry County, Ga. They had been participating in various summer ministries with Lebanese Baptists through churches in Beirut when cross-

border bombing and rocket attacks broke out between Hezbollah guerrillas based in southern Lebanon and Israeli forces.

Southern Baptist International Mission Board (IMB) workers are providing assistance to the volunteers in Cyprus. They are scheduled to leave Cyprus for Baltimore and several other U.S. cities. Once back in the United States, the Forney group will fly on to Dallas/Fort Worth. The Eagle's Landing volunteers will fly to Atlanta.



LONG WAY FROM HOME — A U.S. Marine from the USS Nashville helps an American family understand the next step in their exhausting evacuation from Beirut, Lebanon. Southern Baptist volunteers were part of this evacuation. The two volunteer groups include 10 members from First Church of Forney, Texas, and nine from Eagle's Landing First Church in Henry County, Ga. (BP photo)

John Brady, IMB regional leader for Northern Africa and the Middle East, met with the volunteers after they arrived in Nicosia, Cyprus. "They were elated to be out of Lebanon and praising the Lord for His protection," Brady said. "They also had some very kind words about how the Lebanese Baptist brothers and cictors believed they

"They also had some very kind words about how the Lebanese Baptist brothers and sisters helped them every step of the way, as well as the way the U.S. government responded to rescue Americans. They're heartbroken for the people in the Middle East, and they're praying God will resolve this tragic situation soon," he said.

Middle East, and they're praying God will resolve this tragic situation soon," he said. Todd Bradley, one of the Forney volunteers and an associate professor at Criswell College in Dallas, spoke to the Dallas Morning News July 19 before leaving Beirut. He told of moving several times to different locations to avoid the bombing.

"The Lebanese Baptists here are putting food containers together for the people who have been displaced in south Beirut, which is an amazing thing, and we've been a part of that," Bradley said.

Tim Dowdy, pastor at Eagle's Landing First Church, told WXIA-TV in Atlanta that volunteers from his church also got involved in Baptist ministry to refugees before leaving Beirut.

before leaving Beirut.

"They just kind of jump(ed) in and said,
'Hey, we can help unload a truck, we can
help feed people, we can help pass out
food and water and blankets or pillows,
whatever is needed," Dowdy reported.

Bradley, in an interview with

Bradley, in an interview with Christian radio station KCBI in Dallas, called the situation in the region "very sad." He added, "It's not a matter of whose side you're on. You love these

people here, and they're watching their country be systematically destroyed, and it's hard to watch."

International Mission Board (IMB) personnel in the Middle East urged Southern Baptists to pray for peace in Lebanon, Israel, and the entire region as it plunges closer to full-scale warfare.

"We're not here to take sides," said Brady. "Our tasks are to pray and minister in the name of Jesus Christ, so one day the people of these troubled lands will know the Prince of Peace."

Currently, all Southern Baptist workers in the region are accounted for and safe, he said. "The news gets worse each day as this conflict deepens," Brady said. "We're asking Southern Baptists to please take a moment to pray after any news update. Please pray for the peoples of this region... Each bit of news should be a nudge to a personal call to prayer."

Southern Baptists have a longstanding

relationship with Baptists in Lebanon and elsewhere in the Middle East. Workers in the region asked for prayer for the safety and ongoing ministry of Lebanese Baptists and other believers affected by the fighting in the region.

affected by the fighting in the region.

"We've had personnel in this part of the world for a long time," Brady said.

"No one ever gets used to the violence here, but we have learned to act wisely and be careful about where we go and what we do each day. Our folks are praying and staying in close contact with regional leadership.

regional leadership.

"These are difficult days. Yet our work here, to quote the Apostle Paul, is to be a fragrance of life."





AMERICANS EVACUATED — Weary American citizens file their way down the gang plank of the USS Nashville in the early hours of the morning July 21. Nineteen Southern Baptists volunteers were part of this evacuation effort, which delivered 1,059 Americans to safety in Larnaca, Cyprus. (BP photo)

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK



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Facing the movie giants

ould it be that Hollywood is finally getting the message? The truthful answer is probably, "Yes, but..."

From the box office juggernaut that was The Passion of the Christ to the overtly spiritual references in Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest, it would seem that at least part of the American entertainment industry is beginning to understand family-friendly movies are Alist money makers. How else to explain

the billion-dollar popularity of the Lord of the Rings trilogy, or Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest, which scored the best opening-weekend box office of all time and will soon become the highest-grossing motion pic-ture in Disney history?

Still, there are those in the industry who just don't get it. We've a long way to go with these folks, so there is still a need for films like Facing the Giants which will reach the-

aters on September 29.

The brainchild of a group of Georgia Baptist ministers, Facing the Giants tells the fictional story of Grant Taylor, a high school foot-

ball coach who has never had a winning season. Combined with pressures in his personal life and yet another losing team, Taylor turns to God in the midst of his troubles.

A subsidiary of Sony Pictures jumped at the opportunity to get involved with the film. University of Georgia football head coach Mark Richt, a devout Christian known for his powerful public testimony, was so impressed with the script that he made time in his busy schedule to put in a cameo appearance.

Produced on a classic shoestring bud-

get with real-life locations used as movie

sets and a wardrobe budget consisting of the clothing the volunteer actors could provide for themselves, Facing the Giants is poised to teach Hollywood another painful lesson about movie making.

However, that paragon of virtue and high standards, the Motion Picture

Association of America (MPAA), has handed down a PG rating apparently out of con-cern for the religious content of the movie.

The first communication with MPAA was that religion was a factor in the ratings," Kris Fuhr, vice-president of marketing at Sony Pictures subsidiary Provident Films, told Associated Press after the PG rating created a whirlwind of criticism. "Since then, the MPAA has revised those

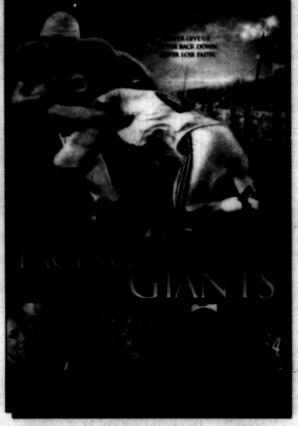
factors to no longer include religion."

That's too sad to be funny. With movies today filled with as much hedonism, cursing, violence, gore, sex and gun play as producers and directors can pack into two hours, MPAA deigns to restrict an uplifting and encouraging movie on the basis of its religious content. Here's how the MPAA web site describes a PG-rated film (excerpted):

This is a film which clearly needs to be examined by parents before they let their children attend. The label PG plainly states parents may consider some material unsuitable for their children, but leaves the parent to make the decision. Parents are warned against sending their children, unseen and without inquiry, to PG-rated movies.

The MPAA obviously believes that calling upon the Name of the Lord for strength and guidance is now in the category of "material unsuitable" for children and worthy of a strong warning to parents.

In addition to religious content, what else will get a movie a PG rating? Profanity,



violence, and "brief nudity," according to MPAA. "There is no drug use content in a

PG-rated film," adds the group's web site. So there we have it. Despite a few recent gains, in the eyes of the entertainment industry religious people are still no better than vulgarians, murderers, exhibitionists, and addicts. As long as Hollywood feels that way, there will be a need for films like Facing the Giants.

Let's prove that to them in September.

Editor's note: For more information on the movie, visit www.facingthegiants.com.

merica is definitely a dis-A posable nation. From baby diapers, mop pads, and drink-ing cups to athletic wear, contacts, Baptist preachers, and red shirted crewmen on intergalactic vessels, convenience demands easy disposability.

If it takes up too much room, causes too much work, or gets in the way, dispose of it. It is all good, society can adapt with-out it. When needed later, this is America, we can purchase it again. Even if God decides to dispose of it for us, if we think we need it, we can buy it back.

Not even life is sacred to our dispose-all mentality. If a child will cause inconvenience, choice demands expendability.
Mississippi Baptists through
The Memorial to the Missing
emphatically declare otherwise.

in downtown Jackson. It is a large structure designed to hold 50 million pennies, which is one penny for each child aborted in America since the U.S. Supreme Court's Roe v. Wade decision in 1973 legalized abortion nationwide. It is an ongoing project of Mississippi Baptists and will continue until 50 million pen-nies fill the structure.

As each penny has value, even more so does the life of each unborn child that each penny

GUEST OPINION:



A world shed of inconvenience

By David Alexander, member First Church, Clinton

represents — and as a whole, America has discarded a priceless treasure chest of valuable life.

As irony would have it, the latest would-be casualty of American convenience is the penny. As of May of this year, the cost of fabricating the penny is more than the value of the penny The Memorial to the Missing itself. Supposedly, the 1.23 cents it is located at the Baptist Building costs to make each penny and the 5.73 cents spent on each nickel have made these two coins conveniently expendable, according to a bill introduced to the House

In America, the inconvenience of something is directly proportional to its disposability. In order to adjust to a new financial reality without pen-nies, ideas are being formulated for efficient rounding of prices. I can only imagine that in a world run by politicians, this means a liberal method of rounding up. If my high school economics is right, get ready for an increase in the cost of living. Is our society soon to be completely "centsless?" The Memorial to the

Missing flies in the face of convenient disposability. Each saved penny shouts defiantly that the child's worth is not determined by convenience.

Although viewed by many as insignificant, each life is priceless. Life is not to be idly discarded for the sake of societal convenience. To rid ourselves of life simply because it will cost us too much to keep is senseless. Ridding society of pennies might simply increase the cost of living, but ridding ourselves of children has great-ly decreased our value of life.

All things were created by God and for the purposes of

God. Christ's suffering and death were inconvenient, but He went through them any-way because their long term value and significance were not determined by their convenience. The cost of following Christ is great and definitely not convenient. Christ's command for us to lead by servanthood is not intended for our convenience. The cost of fulfilling the Great Commission and Acts 1.8 is not even close to convenient.

Certainly our lives were meant, not for our convenience, but for God's purposes. In the postmodern society dictated by convenience, the Church, like the memorial, is the monument to purposeful inconvenience. The Church participates in Christ's inconvenience so that others may rejoice in purposeful living.

Rid the world of pennies and I might be able to adjust and conform to a world without cents, but I despise the mere thought of adjusting — and reject the idea of conforming to a world without sense.

Alexander is ethnic ministries consultant in the Church Planting Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. For more information on the Memorial to the Missing, visit www.mbcb.org.

Miss. reps on both sides of stem cell vote

WASHINGTON (BP and local reports) — U.S. President Bush used his veto power for the first time on July 19, rejecting a bill that would have funded with taxpayer dollars stem cell research that destroys embryos. The U.S. House of Representatives failed later that day to overturn the President's veto, dooming the bill at least for this congressional session.

The House voted 235-193

The House voted 235-193 for the Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act, leaving it 51 votes short of the two-thirds majority required to override a presidential veto. The vote total was nearly the same as that recorded when the House voted 238-194 for passage of the bill, H.R. 810, on May 24.

In the original vote in the House on May 24 and the override attempt on July 19, Mississippi Congressmen Roger Wicker (R), Chip Pickering (R), and Gene Taylor (D) voted against using taxpayer dollars for stem cell research and in favor of upholding the President's veto, while Bennie Thompson (D) voted in favor of the bill and in favor of overriding the President's veto.

Mississippi's Senators, Thad Cochran (R) and Trent Lott (R), both voted in favor of using taxpayer dollars for stem cell research. There was no override attempt in the Senate after the House failed in its override vote.

The override effort came less than five hours after Bush announced in a White House ceremony he had vetoed the bill because it required the destruction of embryos.

The veto, the first of Bush's presidency, was not a surprise. He had threatened since before last year's House vote to reject a measure that would have weakened his policy barring federal grants for experiments that result in the destruction of human embryos. Bush's rule allows funds for research only on embryonic stem cell lines already in existence when his policy was announced in August 2001.

"If this bill would have become

"If this bill would have become law, American taxpayers would, for the first time in our history, be compelled to fund the deliberate destruction of human embryos. And I'm not going to allow it," Bush said in the July 19 ceremony. "Crossing the line would needlessly encourage a conflict between science and ethics that can only do damage to both and to our nation as a whole. If we're to find the right ways to advance ethical medical research, we must also be willing, when necessary, to reject the wrong ways."

The president's veto fol-

The president's veto followed by a day the Senate's passage of H.R. 810 in a 63-37 vote. That total fell four votes short of the two-thirds majority needed for an override.

The House attempt at an override broke down this way by party lines: 51 Republicans, 183 Democrats and an independent voted for the override;



179 Republicans and 14 Democrats voted against it.

H.R. 810 would have underwritten research that uses embryos stored at in vitro fertilization clinics.

Stem cells are the body's master cells that can develop into tissues and other cells, providing hope for the treatment of numerous afflictions.

Unlike research using embryos, extracting stem cells from non-embryonic sources — such as umbilical cord blood, placentas, fat and bone marrow — does not harm the donor and has produced treatments for at least 72 ailments, according to Do No Harm, a coalition promoting ethics in research. These include spinal cord injuries, rheumatoid arthritis, lupus, multiple sclerosis and sickle cell anemia.

Many scientists contend embryonic stem cells have more therapeutic potential than their non-embryonic counterparts, but embryonic research has yet to treat any diseases in human beings and has been plagued by the development of tumors in lab animals.

In addition, the strength of the pro-embryonic lobby's claims is not evident in the priorities of the multi-billion-dollar biotechnology industry, which has invested many times more in non-embryonic stem cell research.

Privately funded research on embryonic stem cells is legal and ongoing in the United States. In addition to vetoing H.R. 810, Bush signed into law the Fetus Farming Prohibition Act, S. 3504, which bars the acceptance of tissue from an embryo implanted or developed in a woman or animal for research purposes. Though no such experiments have been performed with human beings, some researchers have aborted animal fetuses and harvested their body parts as a possible precursor, supporters of the new ban said. The "fetus farming" ban passed both houses of Congress unanimously.

The president announced his veto of the embryonic stem cell

funding bill by saying it crossed a "moral boundary that our decent society needs to respect." "If this bill would have

"If this bill would have become law, American taxpayers would, for the first time in our history, be compelled to fund the deliberate destruction of human embryos. And I'm not going to allow it," Bush said.

"I made it clear to the

"I made it clear to the Congress that I will not allow our nation to cross this moral line," he said in a 15-minute speech. "Crossing the line would needlessly encourage a conflict between science and ethics that can only do damage to both and to our nation as a whole. If we're to find the right ways to advance ethical medical research, we must also be willing, when necessary, to reject the wrong ways."

Bush announced his actions in the White House's East Room to an audience that included 18 families with "snowflake" children they adopted as embryos in storage at fertility clinics, four families who donated embryos to other families and four people who have been treated with non-embryonic stem cells, which do not harm donors.

"Each of these children began his or her life as a frozen embryo that was created for in vitro fertilization but remained unused after the fertility treatments were complete," the president said. "These boys and girls are not spare parts. They remind us of what is lost when embryos are destroyed in the name of research. They remind us that we all begin our lives as a small collection of cells. And they remind us that in our zeal for new treatments and cures, America must never abandon our fundamental morals."

Richard Land, president of the Southern Baptist Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission in Nashville, commended Bush for "standing by the principles he has articulated on this issue from the beginning."

"The essential issue here is whether or not we as a nation want to underwrite the killing of unborn children in order to try to seek cures for older and bigger human beings," said Land.

BAPTISTS

THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

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JULY 27, 2006 Vol. 130

No. 29

H.R. 810

(taxpayer funding for embryonic stem cell research)

♦Yes

Senator Thad Cochran Senator Trent-Lott Rep. Bennie Thompson

9No

Rep. Roger Wicker Rep. Chip Pickering Rep. Gene Taylor

Looking back

Initial feedback from the first twin-service Mississippi Baptist Youth Night is uniformly positive, with an estimated 11,500 people attending July 26 – 27 at the Mississippi Coliseum in Jackson.

Holly Springs native Bob Dent, a former Southern Baptist missionary journeyman who taught Bible classes in the bush country of Liberia, is named camp manager for the Luzan Baptist Assembly in Cabcaban Bataan, Philippines.

Mississippi Baptists are urged to join the effort to rebuild First Church, Fukouka, Japan, destroyed during WWII. "If we fail to enter the open doors now, it will be far more difficult for us in the future," states a Baptist Record editorial.



YOU CAN RESPOND RIGHT NOW!

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

- 1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (I have sinned.)
- 2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (*I repent*.)
- 3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (I believe in Jesus.)
- 4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name." (John 1:12)

If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

PRICE HARRIS



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A GATHERING OF SUPPORT, CELEBRATION, AND PRAISE

It is only a matter of weeks until we come to cross that time marker indicating the first anniversary since Katrina came on shore. Millions of words and hundreds of thousands of pictures have been used to try to tell the story of Katrina and its aftermath. Multimillions of emotions have been felt and all of us have at times been a part of the loss and at other times the elation of thanksgiving related to this terrible storm. I want to ask people all across our state to do something very special as we come to the anniversary in showing support and being a part of celebration and praise for the year that has passed. On August 17, at the Gulf Coast Coliseum there will be a gathering of choirs from across the coast and some from other areas across the state to present the powerful and moving musical arranged and directed by David T. Clydesdale, How Great is Our God. Some of you have participated in the musical in your church, and you can be a part of this marvelous gathering. Contact the Church Music Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board at palford@mbcb.org and let them know that you want to be involved, or visit the Katrina



Directi ns

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

Musical Remembrance website at www.katrinaremembrance.com for additional information. Others of you can join the celebration by loading up a van or a bus or getting in your car and driving down to show your love and support for the people all across the coast.

I am praying that thousands of you will come and help fill the Coliseum to standing room only capacity as we focus our attention on How Great is Our God. The real purpose of our gathering is two-fold. One is to be blessed. If you come I am confident the sounds of hundreds of voices singing and the wonderful testimonies of God's grace will fill your heart to overflowing. Thousands of you have made trip after trip to the coast to deliver water, cleaning supplies, food, building materials, and anything else that was needed. Please

try to make plans to come and join in an experience of letting God bless all of us together.

The second focus of our gathering is to be a blessing, to let the people all across the coast know that we care about them, and to share in the praise and the celebration that our great God cares for them. You may have heard about the little girl who was sitting out on the edge of the street with her friend. Her mother called her to come in for supper. The little girl did not come immediately, and her mother was a little bit disturbed. In a little while the mother called her again and told her to come for supper. This time the little girl made her way to the house, and when she came in her mother scolded her and told her that she had called her and wanted to know why she had not come. The little girl told her mom that her friend's bicycle had broken and she was upset and crying. The mother was still somewhat stern and said, "Well, you do not know how to fix a bicycle. You should have come on in the house." The little girl replied, "No, I do not know how to fix a bicycle, but I know how to cry with my friend."

Many of us have wished a thousand times we knew how to just fix everything that the storm damaged and replace everything that was robbed by the storm. Neither individually or collectively as a denomination or even as a national government can we just put it back, but bless your hearts we can join together with our friends in a marvelous time that involves thousands. All of us can proclaim at this anniversary time that our God is greater than Katrina and that we as fellow Christians, brothers, and sisters from across the state care about our friends who have struggled and continue to live in the uplifting environment of faith and hope.

I look forward to seeing thousands of you as we mark Katrina's anniversary by singing, How Great is Our God.

The author may be contacted at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. E-mail: jfutral@mbcb.org.

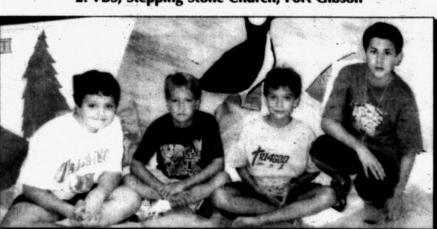
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



1. VBS, Faith Church, West Point



2. VBS, Stepping Stone Church, Port Gibson



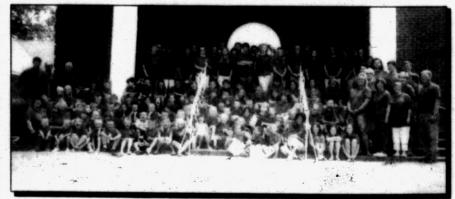
3. VBS, First Church, Byram

- 1. Faith Church, West Point, had 173 enrolled in VBS with 18 children making decisions for Christ. Shown are a few of the participants.
- Stepping Stone Church, Port Gibson, held VBS June 26-30. Shown are the participants.
- First Church, Byram, recently held its VBS. Shown are 3rd and 4th grade boys Grant Evans, Logan Williamson, Drew Taleisnik, and youth leader Evan Howell.
- Golden Central Church, Golden, held its VBS June 5–9. A total of \$2,143.18 was raised as a mission offering, which is to be used to buy Bibles for children in Columbia, South America.
- Slayden Church, Slayden, held its VBS June 18–23, with 121 enrolled; average attendance 110; 80 teachers

- and helpers. An offering of \$985 was given to Journey Church, Southaven.
- Harmony Church, Walnut, held its VBS July 10–14 with an enrollment of 158. Shown are the participants.

OBITUARY

Calvin Gibson, pastor of Calvary Indian Church, Union, died Jan. 6 at Riley's Hospital, Meridian. His funeral was Jan. 9 at the Pearl River Church, Choctaw. He had served as moderator of the New Choctaw Association, vice-moderator, associational music director, and in Sunday School. He is survived by his wife, Delilah, and children Alyssa, Jamison, Lisa, Jodie, Tristan, several grandchildren, brothers and sister.



6. VBS, Harmony Church, Walnut

July 27, 2006

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Communication Services

Pray this day for...

July 28 – August 10, 2006

Prayer Ministry Office • P.O. Box 530 • Jackson, MS 39205-0530 • Phone 601-292-3304 • Mississippi PrayerLine 1-800-787-7729 (PRAY)

"If we want to be effective disciples in the midst of these challenging times. We need to believe in a Truth that will change us from the BAPTIST A OUITS - Summer 2006 inside out."

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Fall 2006

GET INVOLVED!

BLUE MOUNTAIN COLLEGE

 Welcome Party August 21, 6:30 pm **Broach BSU Center** Contact: 662-685-4771 Ext. 137

COPIAH-LINCOLN CC Opening of School Kickoff August 21, 6:15 pm Contact: 601-643-2630

DELTA STATE

- Sorority Luncheon August 14, noon **BSU Center**
- Ice Cream Fellowship August 21, 6 pm **BSU Center**
- Welcome Back Party August 24, 6:30 pm **BSU Center**
- Freshman/Transfer Night August 28, 5 pm **BSU Center** Contact: 662-843-2507

EAST CENTRAL CC

 Opening of School Kickoff Party **BSU Center** Contact: 601-635-2481

GULF COAST CC

- Welcome Lunch Jeff Davis Campus - BSU Center August 23, noon
- Perkinston Campus BSU Center August 28, 12:20 pm
- Welcome Lunch **Jackson County Campus BSU Center** August 29, 12:20 pm Contact: 228-896-6958

HINDS CC · Welcome Back Fellowship

August 14, 7 pm **BSU Center** Contact: 601-857-5312

ITAWAMBA CC

 Welcome Cookout August 16

11:50 am - 1 pm

Crane Pavilion · Back to School Water Party August 22, 7:07 pm **Chickasaw Pavilion**

Contact: 662-862-3278 JONES COUNTY JC

· Back to School Party **BSU Center & Area Churches** Contact: 601-477-3973

MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE

 Welcome Back Party August 22, 6:30 pm Anderson Hall, BCR Stud. Ctr. Back to School Retreat **August 25-27** Lake Forest Ranch

MS DELTA CC

 Back to School Cookout August 21 10:30 am - 1:30 pm **BSU Center**

Contact: 662-246-5442

Contact: 601-925-3238

MISSISSIPPI STATE

- "BASIC Training" Freshmen **BSU Center**
- August 14-15 Cost: \$25 - includes T-shirt & meals BASIC Training* – Transfers **BSU Center, August 16**

Cost \$15 - includes T-shirt & meals

· 'Sundae on a Monday' Welcome Party August 21, 5:30 pm **BSU Center** Contact: 662-328-3295

Contact: 662-323-5761

 Noonday August 23, noon **BSU Center** Contact: 662-328-3295

NORTHEAST MS CC

- Premier Night Party August 22, 7 pm
- · Skating Party August 24, 8 pm Aloha Skate Center
- Welcome Luau

August 29, 7 pm

BSU Center · After-game Coffeehouse August 31, 9:45 pm-**BSU Center**

Contact: 662-728-5409 **PEARL RIVER CC** Kick-Off Party

August 22, 7 pm BSU Center Contact: 601-795-8581

SOUTHWEST MISSISSIPPI CC

· Welcome Back Party August 22, 7 pm **BSU Center** Contact: 601-276-2012

OLE MISS

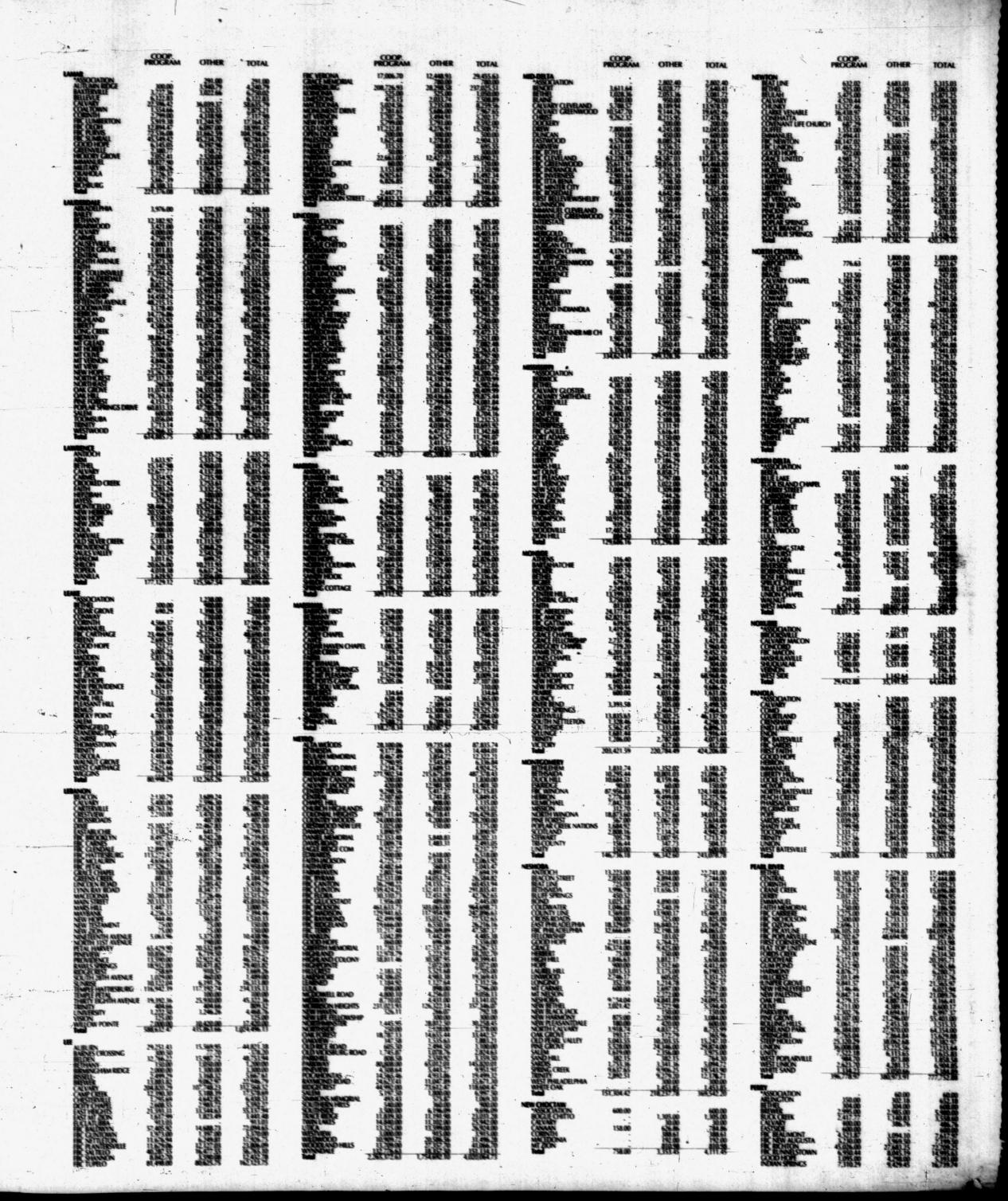
- Welcome Party August 22, 7 pm **BSU Center**
- Survival Weekend For New Students - Freshmen & Transfers
- August 25-27 Cost: \$20 - includes T-shirt, Bible
- study book & meals Contact: 662-234-9366

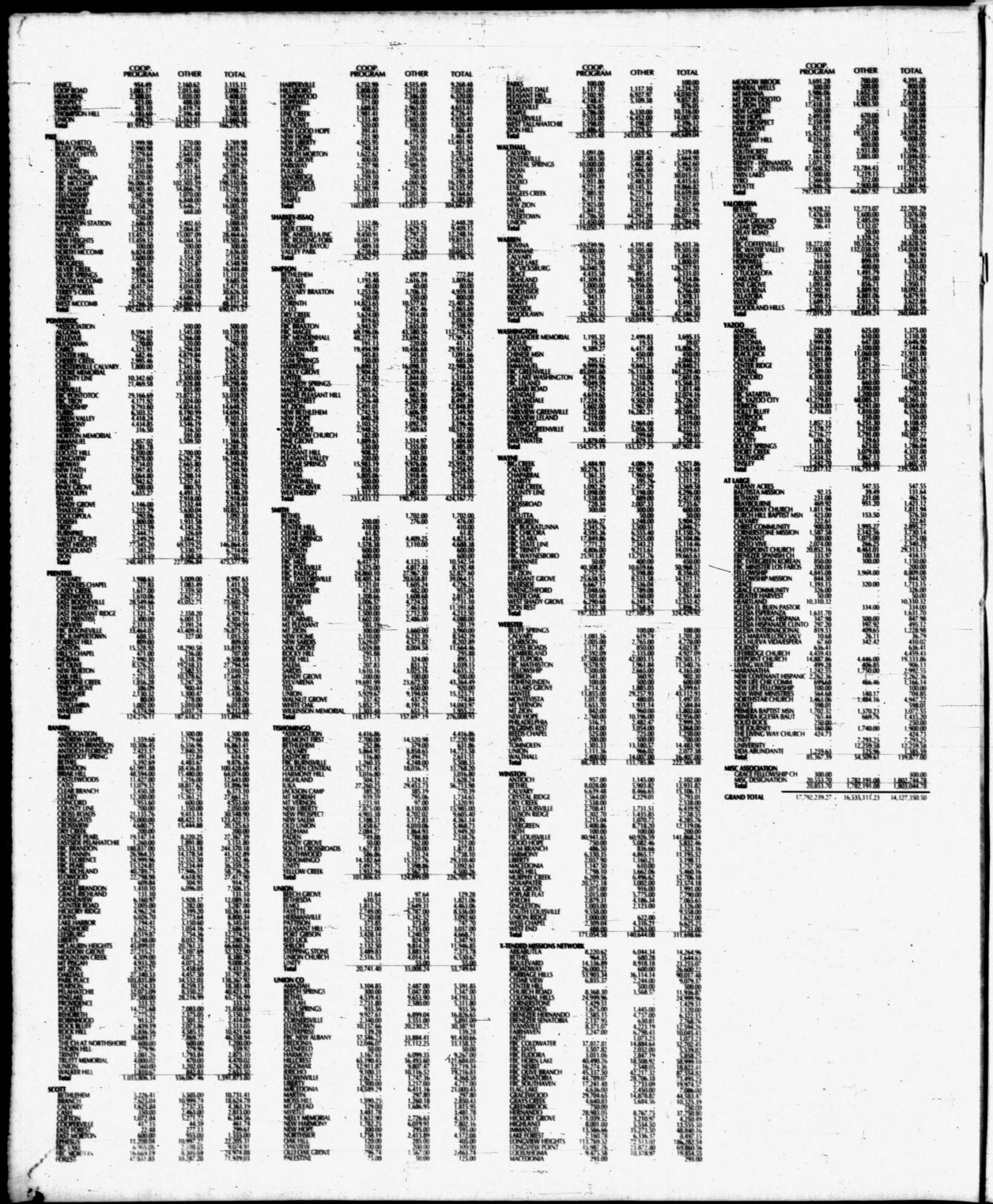
SOUTHERN MISS

- August 16, 9 am 3 pm **BSU Center**
- Freshman Move-in August 18, 9 am - 4 pm
- Survival 2006 New Students
- **BSU Center** Contact: 601-264-5160

WILLIAM CAREY UNIVERSITY Survival Weekend – Freshmen and Tranfers

August 11-13 Contact: 601-318-6161 The following is a listing of contributions made to the COOP. COOP. TOTAL Lord's work which were received by the business office of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board from January 1, 2006, through June 30, 2006. An "" denotes a gift from the association. If you have any questions about the amounts reported for your church, please contact the business office at 601-968-3800 or 1-800-748-1651. Thank you. COOP. TOTAL 湖 146.03 146.03 2,001.00 1,839.52 64,116,77 772.00 11,549,85 175,94 72,30 30,204,83 111104 111104 6,005.04 791.00 BAY SPENCE
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REVIVALS & HOMECOMINGS

Arkadelphia Church, Lauderdale County: Homecoming, Aug. 20; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m., followed by lunch; Glory Bound singing at 1:30 p.m.; Mike Russell, speaker; Robert Bennett, pastor.

Bradford Chapel, Gore Springs: Revival, July 30-Aug. 2; Sun., 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Kenneth Armstrong, Magee, speaker; Kim Parker, Bruce, music; Jon Haimes, pastor.

Concord Church, Macon: Revival, July 30-Aug. 4; Sun., 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; Tim Horton, speaker; Chuck Cotton, music; Lowell Ingram, pastor.

County Line Church, Dossville: Homecoming, July 30; worship, 11 a.m. followed by lunch; Paul Willamson, speaker; James Burrell, pastor.

Goodwater Church, Forest: Revival, Aug. 6-9; Sun., Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m., followed by meal and 1:15 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m; Ferris Smith, speaker; Wayne Thornton and Barbara Traxler, music; Pete Pearson, pastor.

McAdams Church, Attala Association: Revival, July 30-Aug. 2; Sun., 11 a.m., followed by covered dish lunch and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Campers on Mission, speakers and music; James E. Young, pastor.

Pleasant Hill Church, Columbus: Revival, July 30-Aug. 2; Sun., 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Ken Hembree, Pascagoula, speaker; Gary Dover, Hickory, muisc.

Pleasant Hill Church, Magee: Revival, July 30-Aug. 2; Sun., 11 a.m. followed by lunch and 1:30 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Don Taylor, speaker; Donald Walker, music; H.B. Floyd, pastor.

Providence Church, Grenada: Revival, Aug. 6-9; Sun., 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Bernette Fielder, Steve Livingston, Clarence Cooper, and Fletcher Moorman, speakers; Donald Montgomery, music; Harvey Springer, pastor.

Rocky Springs Church, Yazoo Association: Revival and homecoming, Aug. 4-5; Sun., 11 a.m. worship followed by dinner on the grounds, and 7 p.m.; Mon., 7

p.m.; Luke Edwards, speaker; Randy Hill, music; Glenn Warrington, pastor.

Sand Hill Church, Ellisville: Revival, Aug. 20-27; worship, 10:30 a.m., followed by lunch and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Sat., 7 p.m.; Sun., Aug. 27, worship, 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m. John Hilburn, speaker.

Stanton Church, Natchez: Revival, Aug. 6-9; Sun., 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Mike Routon, Petal, speaker; Steve Strebeck, music; Steve Purvis, pastor.

Union Church, Brookhaven: Revival, Aug. 6-8; Sun., 11 a.m. and 6:30 p.m., with meal following evening service; Mon.-Tues., 7 p.m.; Dan Hall, speaker; Rusty Walton, music; Tim Lawrence, pastor.

Vardaman Church, Kemper County: Revival, Aug. 6-9; Sun., 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Kevin Meador, speaker; Josh Meadows, pastor.

West Church, West: Homecoming, Aug. 6, 11 a.m.; James Culpepper, pastor and speaker; Chris Self, Madison, and Natalie McLellan, music. Bibliocipher
By Charles Marx, 1932 - 2004

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XOWR DQB JRG, VDYH

XQWR WKH ORUG

RQOB, KH VKDOO EH

XWWHUOB GHVWURBHG.

HARGXV WZHQWB-WZR:

WZHQWB

Clue: X = U

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Isaiah Fifty-Two: Ten.

EVANGELISM BIBLE CONFERENCES — 2006 — JAMES E. MESSER MINISTRIES

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Scheduled Speakers

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Monday 7:00pm • John Sullivan • Exec Director Florida Baptist Convention

Tuesday 7:00pm

Johnny Hunt • Pastor • FBC • Woodstock, GA And Jerry Vines • Woodstock, GA

Wednesday 7:00pm • Bill Britt • President Compel Outreach International • Gallatin, TN

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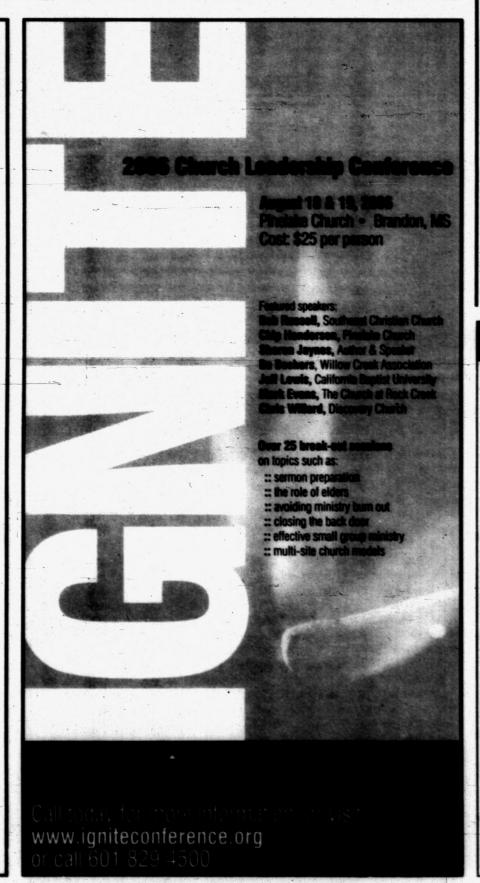
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October 2007 • Smith County - Raleigh, MS
August 2007 • Salem Heights BC - Laurel, MS

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STAFF CHANGES

Gerald H. Walker, pastor of Good Hope Church, Panola Association, retired July 2. Walker had served as pastor in Mississippi churches for over 29 years. He can be reached in Oxford at (662) 816-6372.

Arkadelphia Church, Bailey, has called Robert Bennett as pastor, most recently serving as pastor of Oak Grove Church, Lamar County Bennett and his wife Mary have four children: Noel, Chase, Gage, and Haley.

John Clifton Purvis has retired from New Goodhope Church, Pulaski, and is available for supply and interims. He can be reached at (601) 537-3282.

First Church, Shannon, has called Terry G. Ramey as minister of music and students, effective July 1. He previously served as minister of music and students in Lee and Pontotoc counties.



BAPTISTS

ECREST BAPTIST CHURCH, BYRAM, MISS., seeking paid nursery workers. Call (601) 372-0132.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, HICKORY FLAT, MISS., is looking for a Minister of Music. Please send resume to First Baptist Church, attn: Minister of Music Search Committee, P. O. Box 98, Hickory Flat, MS 38633.

FULL-TIME ASSOCIATE PASTOR: GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH, PHILA-**DELPHIA**, MISS., is accepting resumes for full-time associate pastor. Mail resume to: Search Committee, 111 Grace Avenue, Philadelphia MS 39350, www.GraceBaptistPhiladelphia.Org.

CORINTH BAPTIST CHURCH, MAGEE, MISS., is taking resumes for the position of youth minister. Please mail resumes to attention search committee, Corinith Baptist Church, 207 Church Road, Magee, MS 39111 by August 14, 2006.

IMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH IN VICKSBURG, MISSISSIPPI, is seeking individual or individuals to fill the following positions: Minister of Music and Minister of Youth. Any one that is interested, please send resume to Immanuel Baptist Church, Attention Personnel Committee, 6949 highway 61 South, Vicksburg Ms. 39180. Or contact Marshall Thomas at (601) 619-4905 or (601) 218-0392.

JOHNS BAPTIST CHURCH is seeking a music program. Please send resume to 426 Pineview Lane, Brandon, MS 39042, or Call (601) 824-9404.

DERMA BAPTIST CHURCH is seeking a full-time youth minister who has a pas sion for students and a heart for m a difference. Candidates should submit their resumes to westfam@tds.net.

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'The Risen Christ" Statue

Faculty, staff and students wait in the shade while workers from Finlo Construction Company install a six-foot bronze statue titled "The Risen Christ" in the Chain Garden on the Hattiesburg campus of William Carey University. The statue was specially made in Italy for the site. It was donated by Hattiesburg businessman Bobby Chain,

owner of Chain Electric Company, and will be dedicated along with the newly renovated Chain Gardens in the fall. Four different verses of scripture surround the black granite base of the statue.

The William Carey University Library in Gulfport will receive at \$25,000 grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation as part of an effort to assist academic libraries who suffered



WCU Library receives \$25,000 grant

losses during Hurricane Katrina. Patty Furr, director of library and learning resources at WCU, attended a Mellon Foundation funded trip to Atlanta last March as part of an effort to draft plans for the grant. "When the Southeastern Library Network (SOLINET) officials saw photographs of our campus, we were classified as one of the most heavily damaged locations," said Furr. "Besides the \$25,000, we may qualify for other help from the Mellon Foundation as well." Shown are Furr and Tommy King, vicepresident of WCU with the grant acceptance letter.

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kids), good 5/26 - 8/6, (205) 556-0368 or Michie, P.O. Box 209, Michie, TN 38357. NORRIS BOOKBINDING COMPANY, TENN., SEEKS A BIVOCATIONAL MINIS- IST CHURCH, CROSSETT, ARK. Resumes INC., old Bibles rebound. Also, church TER OF YOUTH. Please send resume to to: children's search committee, First attn: music search committee, P.O. Box tins and hymnals. For more infor- Bro. Brian Rainey, First Baptist Church Baptist Church, 701 Main Street, Crossett, mation call (662) 453-7424 or fax us at Michie, P.O. Box 209, Michie, TN 38357. AR 71635 or fwhite@fbccrossett.com. 2006 DELUXE 30' BUNKHOUSE OF WALTON COUNTY, FLORIDA, one Design, fabrication, repair. Fax illustrations TRAILER, barely used. Aluminum of the fastest growing areas in the USA, is to (601) 483-7958 or call (800) 368-2705. 2006 DELUXE 30' BUNKHOUSE OF WALTON COUNTY, FLORIDA, one De frame, fiberglass skin, sleeps 9. Private currently accepting resumes to fill two GATLINBURG GETAWAY: 2 BR/2 bath, queen bed, hook-up or self-con-bivocational staff positions: WORSHIP/ full kitchen. Walking distance to park-tained, awning, full bath, 4 burner MUSIC MINISTER & YOUTH MINISTER. way, \$65/nite. Call for information at stove, oven, AC. Harperstowne RV, A full-time, combined music/youth min- (251) 666-2175, cell phone (251) 689ter position will also be considered. Please mail resumes to PRBC, 1015 CONDO: 1 queen bed, sleeper sofa, 2 bunk Pleasant Ridge Rd, DeFuniak Springs, FL interstate, 4.9 cents in state. No monthly beds, smoke-free, pools and lazy river. Call 32435; fax 1-850-892-9181; or email prbc1889@defuniak.com.

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FAMILY BIBLE STUDY

I Will Obey God's Commands

Exod. 19:4-6; 20:3-17

By Les Colvin

Very few subjects have drawn more controversy in the public forum recently as has the battle over the public display of the Ten Commandments. Numerous law-suits have been filed and argued before various courts, including the Supreme Court as to the legal-ity of the display of the Ten Commandments on public property. The Ten Commandments, as controversial as they may be, are the foundation for the moral stan-dard of our society. The problem with many people is they do not want a moral code or direction in their lives. We live in a society that wants to define its own moral standard and definition of truth and so they seek to remove the "biblical standard" of morality and truth from the public domain. God-gave us the Law and all of

His Word not to limit or restrict our lives, but that our lives may be more

meaningful and blessed (Deut. 30:16). God gave Moses and the children of Israel these

commandments for their good.

In Exodus 19:4-6, God called
Israel into a special relationship
with Him. Many people mistakenly believe that the
Christian life is about adhering to a set of rules. However, God is much more interested in our relationship with Him than He is in keeping rules. Notice in verse 4, that when God rescued them from Egypt, He did not say He was bringing them to a place, but to Himself. God established a relationship with Israel and describes that in verses 5-6. First, He says they will be "His own possession." As God's children, we belong



Colvin

to Him. 1 Peter 2:9 is a similar verse in the N.T. that says we are a "chosen generation."
To know that God called and chose us to be His children is the greatest joy a Christian can know. God then called the people "My kingdom of priests." A priest is one who rep-

resents God before the people. As priests, we have direct access to God and are able to have a relationship with Him. As part of this relationship, God calls us to represent Him before the world. God finally refers to the Israelites as "My holy nation." God has called us to be a holy people, set apart for Him. We are to be holy because He is holy (1 Peter 1:16). Verse 5 gives the responsibility on Israel's part for this relationship. They are to listen and keep His covenant.

Exodus 20 lists the Ten Commandments God gave to Moses. In verses 3-11, the first four commandments deal with our relationship with God. God

has expectations for us as His children as to how we are to relate to Him. God calls us to have no other gods and to wor-ship Him alone. He also calls us to honor His name in our speech and conduct, and then He calls on His children to honor the Sabbath as the Lord's Day. These commandments dealing with our relationship with God are the foundation of our Christian life.

In Ex. 20:12-17, the final six commandments are given which deal with our relationship with one another. God calls us to honor our parents, to not murder, commit adultery, steal, give false testimo-ny or covet. As mentioned before, these commandments are not really about rules so much as they are about proper relationships with one another. God tells us how to live. These commandments are given in order for our lives to honor God through our relationships with one another.

Think of the first four commandments as a vertical relationship between God and us. The next six commandments

are the horizontal relationships between one another. They are best summed up in Jesus' great commandment to "love God with all our heart and our neighbor as our self."

Consider these questions as we study the Ten Commandments and evaluate our lives in relation to them. Do you honor anything or anyone above the one true God? Has God been replaced by any idol in your life? Have you dishonored God's name by using it in a frivolous manner? Is your work or leisure more important than your rela-tionship with God? Do you honor your father and mother? Do you value human life? Have you kept your marriage vows? Do you respect other's rights of ownership? Do you tell the truth? Are you content with what you have or do you covet the posses-sions, relationships, and success-es of others? God expects His children to obey His commands that we may live and be blessed.

Colvin is Minister of Education/ Administrator at First Church,

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

What's Wrong with Wanting Wealth? Eccl. 4:4; 5:8-9, 10-13, 17, 19-20; 6:1-2

By Ginger M. Caughman

Acquiring wealth is not the first commandment. God is number one! Obtaining money can be an idol and is forbidden by the second commandment. To worship and honor God actually comprise the first four of God's basic ten commands to His people! Then stealing and covetousness are forbidden by the eighth and tenth laws of God. You could probably make a case for each of the Ten Commandments against wor-shipping wealth and power. God created us and knows the boundaries we need. Christians want to be able to display the Ten Commandments today but do we know them in our hearts and demonstrate them in our lives? God's Word always convicts and challenges. We must read, study and practice God's Holy Word. Review Exodus 20 with fresh eyes this

A true story. One summer in a Louisiana Vacation Bible School, an unchurched child listened attentively to the Bible story. The teacher told of Jesus talking to the Rich Young Ruler. When the boy heard what Jesus required of the young ruler, to sell all he had and give to the poor, the child's expression was incredulous. As the

teacher paused, the child said, "You've got to be kidding!" Many adults today have the same attitude as this child did toward a specific Bible truth. So what is wrong with wanting wealth? We know the saying so well that it's almost a cliché, "It's not money that's evil, it's the love of money that's the problem." Easy to say in our heads. But what about our hearts? Is our behavior rooted

in our faith in God or in material wealth or other things? Are we selfish? We looked at this problem in Job. (See Job 31). Even when we try not to be materialistic, in America most of us are, aren't we? Certainly Americans are blessed materially.

or top priority to earning money and accumulating wealth. Those priorities have led to rampant abuse and immoral and illegal practices. Some have become workaholics sacrificing God, health, family, and friends. Can we rethink the topic of desiring wealth?

As the lesson develops, the headings of the segments answer the question raised in the title. What's wrong with wealth? Well, wealth can become our god; wealth can result from envy; wealth can lead to corruption; a desire for wealth can breed dissatisfaction; and acquiring wealth does not satisfy human's deepest longings. The Scripture topic explores the dangers associated with material wealth. We are challenged to manage our financial affairs as God's stewards.

Be careful about envy of others (Eccl. 4:4). Guard against allowing the desire for the material trappings of success to drive you to unreasonable and even self-destructive efforts to get ahead."

Are you known as an honest person? Some businesses accept dishonesty as accept-able practice. We have a higher standard. Christians need the integrity of Christ.

In the parable of the Sower Jesus warned against "the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth." (Matthew 13:13:22).

"Ecclesiastes presents several conceptions of wisdom only to brand them as Ecclesiastes deals chiefly with the negative side of wisdom, and Proverbs with the positive. Ecclesiastes shows that worldly ways of thinking are vain definitions doomed to perish. Success apart from the fear of God is vanity. Every sort of materialism goes out" (J. Wash Watts). All is

vanity apart from God. Viewing material resources as a gift from God brings satis-

faction; living for the sake of accumulating and holding on to wealth brings inner discontent. All good gifts come from God. Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows" (James 1:17).

Baptists have been well-edu-cated about total stewardship. All of our life; our time, talents, money, physical and spiritual gifts are gifts from God. We are responsible as Christian stewards for all of life.

Our material resources are best enjoyed when managed as a stewardship from God. Life's highest joys come when we give priority to God's kingdom. and live by His standard of righteousness. Read Matthew 6:33, a theme of Bill's and my 42-years of marriage.

At life's end may we hear from God, "Found faithful!" "Well done, good and a faithful servant!" (Matthew 25:21a NIV) "Enter thou into the joy of thy Lord" (v. 21bKJV).

Caughman teaches Sunday School and sings in the choir at First Church, Magee.

Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewrit-

ten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an extended in the extended in the message segment of an extended in the extended in the

tained in the message segment of an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments are permissible.



Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital printouts

are not reproducible. Digital photos may be used if submitted as a JPEG file via either (a) e-mail, (b) three-and-a-half inch floppy disk, or (c) CD. Photos must be clear, sharp, and well-lighted. All news items are subject to editing,

and all photographs are subject to cropping. Photographs must depict people. No landscape-, building-, or object-only photographs will be printed. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis. Requests to return photographs must be accompanied by a self-addressed,

stamped envelope.

Submit news and photographs to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.

JUST FOR THE RECORD



1. Honorees, Concord Church, Benton-Tippah Association



2. Bailey Honored, Reeds Chapel Church, Stewart



3. Mission Friends, Leflore Church, Holcomb

- 1. Concord Church, Benton-Tippah Assocation, recently honored graduating seniors from college, high school, and kindergarten. Shown, from left, back row: Jake Barkley, Nicole Davis, Kathern Cole, Tyler Walker, and Bailey Walker. Front: Lucas Ledbetter.
- 2. Reeds Chapel Church, Stewart, recently honored Fannie Bea Bailey for 68 years of service to the church. Shown are Bailey and pastor Johnny Lollar.
- 3. The Mission Friends Children's Choir Leflore Church, Holcomb, presented a 4th of July program to the church June 24. Shown are some of the participants.
- 4. New Zion Church, Walnut Grove, honored the following mothers on Mother's Day with flowers and gifts: Front row, from left, Kristin Ogletree, Claudine Vaughn, Edna Earl Jones, and Violet Golden; back row, from left, Sandra McDill, Debra Smith, and Kay Ogletree.
- Ten members of Lakeshore Church, Jackson, donated a check, bedding, food, and other items to John and Lorraine Ronzuillo, whose home was destroyed by Hurricane Katrina. Shown, from left, are Hunter Hinton, Catherlene Tucker, Marsha Wood, Lorraine Ronzuillo, and John Ronzuillo.
- First Church, Magee, sent 17 students to Super Summer at Mississippi College. Shown





BAPTISTS

- Church, 7. First Ocean Springs, recently honored minister of music and business administrator Larry Futral with an afternoon retirement service after 23 years of service where Futral was presented with monetary gifts and an inscribed pewter plate. The church's sanctuary choir, bell choir, soloists, and trios performed favorite musical selections, along with the presentation of a slide show and scrapbook. The service was followed by a reception at the Ocean Springs Community Center, Walter 11. Georgetown Anderson museum.
- Calvary Chapel, Parchman, recently celebrated its 16th anniversary and dedicated its 9000 square foot building. Clarence Cooper was guest speaker. The church, which serves the staff population in and around the state peni-tentiary, has either spon-sored or been the catalyst of planning 14 new works in Mississippi, as well as one in Texas and several more in Mexico, Venezuela, Bolivia, and Moldova. It currently sponsors three Hispanic missions at Cleveland, Sunflower, and Leland.

- 9. Temple Church, Hattiesburg, is hosting a woman's conference Aug. 25-26, featuring Lisa Whelchel, known as Blair Warner for nine years on NBC's The Facts of Life. She is also founder of Momtime Ministries and Momtime Get-A-Ways. She is the author of several books. Marianna Adams Jennifer McReynolds, formerly with Sierra, will lead worship. The conference will be held at the church's west campus on Friday from 6-9 p.m. and Saturday from 8-11 a.m. Tickets are \$20 and may be purchased by calling (601) 544-1794; ask for Jo.
- 10. Corinth Church, Heidelberg, invites kids from 3 years-6th grade to their Awana T&T Western Roundup Aug. 12, 7-9 p.m., including a weenie roast, hay ride, fun and fellowship, and a best dressed cowboy/cowgirl contest. For more information, call (601) 428-0206 or (601) 433-2067.
- Church, Copiah Association, is hosting evangelist Charlie Cooper, Rienzi, at 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. July 30.
- Hope Church, 12. **New** Foxworth, is hosting The Providentials in concert Aug. 6, 6:30 p.m. A love offering will be taken.
- 13. Leavy Shoffner, Philadelphia, is available for pulpit ministry and may be reached at (601) 656-9417.
- First Church, Fulton, is hosting The Tally Trio July 30, 6 p.m. A love offering will be received.



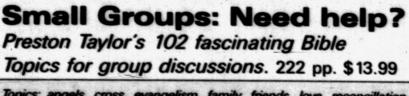
4. Mothers Honored, New Zion Church, Walnut Grove



5. Hurricane Relief, Lakeshore Church, Jackson



6. Youth attend Super Summer at MC, First Church, Magee



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